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# FOOD INFORMATION

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SECRETARY ANDERSON in a clear-cut report on the nation's food supplies July 16 over ABC, also made his first major announcement of plans for improving the food situation in the months ahead. "It will be better for all of us," he said, "to know now and in the future the real facts about the food situation as rapidly as they come to light." He praised the magnificent efforts of farmers to produce food during the war and emphasized their difficulties this year because of adverse weather.

"First," the Secretary stated, "we will have abundant production as our goal at home with the farm prices that are necessary to obtain record crops. Then we shall reach out into the far corners of the earth for every available source of additional food. . . . Everything we can do to get European agriculture back on its feet should be done to reduce demands on us. . . . We can drive harder to get Philippine sugar and oils back into the picture. This will require the highest degree of cooperation among government agencies. Here at home, the black market is our biggest enemy. The Department of Agriculture will help in every way it can to see that the foods that are short reach the people who should have them, and get to them through legitimate channels."

"We have embarked on a rigid policy," he said, "of close and constant scrutiny of military and foreign demands for food," the first results of which has been the paring down of government purchases of butter and meat. "But," he added, "in line with President Truman's request, we shall meet the minimum requirements of ravaged nations to the fullest extent that successful prosecution of the war and the maintenance of our domestic economy permit."

"As the Charter of the United Nations starts its long route through the legislative bodies of the world," the Secretary said in conclusion, "we see food prove its value in the writing of a lasting peace. Yet with all this outpouring of food for our military needs, to relief feeding, to suffering people in the wake of battle and to those allies whose cause is common with our own, the people of America find themselves reasonably well-fed and know that their sacrifices of food have not been greater than they counted on nor more than they could bear. Knowing that, we can face our future in food without alarm."

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . July 17, Congress received the President's recommendation that surplus-property disposal be placed under a single administrator, and the President signed the war agencies appropriation bill. July 18, the House agreed to the conference report on, and sent to the President, the measure providing for AAA-tobacco-marketing-quota elections and specifying CCC loan rates for fire-cured and dark-air cured tobaccos. July 19, the Senate passed a bill transferring RFC meat, flour, and butter subsidies to CCC.

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PORK SET-ASIDE REDUCED. . . . The following reductions have been made in set-aside percentages of pork for Government procurement:

Shoulders, from 10 percent to 7 percent; hams, from 6 percent to 5-1/2 percent; bellies, from 4-1/2 percent to 3-1/2 percent, and loins, from 5-1/2 percent to 5 percent. This action, effective July 22, 1945, will not increase civilian supplies, but will have the effect of adjusting the quantity of pork products available for Army requirements to the seasonal decline in production and keeping civilian supplies in line with allocations previously made. Total set-aside percentages for pork products, formerly 26 percent of the live weight of animals slaughtered, is now reduced to 21 percent. Changes in requirements for the preparation of smoked meats are also effected under the Amendment, to provide for the present needs of the Armed Forces.

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LAMB SET-ASIDE TERMINATED. . . . Increased supplies of lamb for civilians in some areas will be available because of the termination of WFO 75.5, effective July 22, 1945. In effect since April 29, 1945, this order originally required Federally-Inspected slaughterers to set aside 25 percent of their production of the three top grades of lamb. This set-aside was gradually reduced to 10 percent. Lamb and mutton are now available for Government purchase in the open market.

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OPA ON RECONVERSION PRICING AND THE FARMER. . . . OPA has just issued a 3-page leaflet entitled "The Farmers' Stake in Prices of Things They Buy." Processed notification copies are being sent to most of the agencies who may order as many printed copies as they wish for delivery in about four weeks. The leaflet states briefly what price controls in the coming months will mean to farmers--what inflation did to farmers after the last war; the present danger of inflation in the reconversion period; and what can be done to avoid runaway prices. Mimeographed copies will be available in OPA field offices and local price and rationing boards some time during the week of July 23. OPA is also sending it to farm organizations.

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MORE ABOUT SUGAR. . . . A "Fact Sheet on Sugar" recently released by Office of Supply, CCC, tells why the sugar supply is short, just how short it is, the latest ration news on sugar, and suggests ways for making it go further. . . . To answer numerous queries of individuals on what to do about the shortage of sugar for canning, BHN&HE has prepared a 2-page leaflet entitled "Make the Most of Sugar in Canning Fruit." It also refers to Department leaflets on canning, drying, preserving, and pickling. This and the sugar fact sheet can be obtained from the Office of Information.

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PICK-UP FROM CARACAS. . . . Scheduled for the Consumer Time show July 28 is a pick-up from the third annual Pan American Conference on agriculture at Caracas, Venezuela, with talks by Under Secretary Hutson and other prominent agricultural officials. On August 4, a pick-up from the Western Research Laboratory of ARA at Albany, California, is planned.

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THIS IS FARM SAFETY WEEK and to emphasize it Florence Hall, Chief of the Women's Land Army of the Department's Farm Labor Program, appears today as a guest on Ruth Van Deman's part of Your Home and Garden Show to tell how WLA members are taught to work safely. One of the first things they are taught is to handle tools and machinery right, Miss Hall says. The following rules taught in tractor schools could well be applied by women running electric washing machines, mangles, or other motorized equipment: "Know your tractor and equipment; wear comfortable, safe work clothing. . .; keep your hair protected with a cap or scarf; insist that the power take-off shield be in place at all times; always stop the motor before repairing, oiling, adjusting, or refueling; be in control of the machine at all times; never leave the motor running without a driver in the seat."

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Foreign type cheese production back to 1942 level--1308; Tips on Jap beetle control--1309; USDA advises California grape growers on transportation problems--1315; Increased grower prices for red sour cherries--1316; The 1945 tobacco program--1329; Entries of sugar from offshore areas through June 30--1331; No corn for alcohol, use of wheat and rye limited--1334; USDA amends food import order--1336; 1945 cotton purchase program--1337; CCC loans on 1944 crop cotton--1344; Cheddar cheese set-aside reduced--1348; U. S. delegation leaves for agricultural conference in Caracas--1353; Talk by Anderson on National Farm Safety Week--1354.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . OPA announces additional provisions for issuance of extra food rations for medical reasons--OPA-5759; New trade point value of creamery butter purchased in bulk units of more than 4 pounds reduced to 15.7 per pound--OPA-T-3453; War Production Board grants increased authorizations for production of food processing machinery--WPB-8732.

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A WESTERN MOVIE, "Irrigation Farming" can be obtained from the Department's depositories in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, and from SCS Regional Headquarters in Albuquerque. It demonstrates irrigation practices that will result in increased crop production. This movie in black and white is available in 16 mm.

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"VETERANS AND THE LAND," is a movie scheduled for release in August. After seeing it, a veteran or anyone considering farming, should know better whether he is suited to farming, if he will like farm life, some pitfalls to avoid, and where to obtain further advice in making his decision or in selecting a farm. Sixteen mm. prints will be available from the State film depositories.

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YOUR HOME AND GARDEN SHOW. . . . The "garden" part of this show on July 28 will be about home storage of root vegetables. Miss Van Deman will cover the home front with latest news for the housewife.

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